GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4483
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
TELECOM FACILITY IN RURAL AREAS
NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes regarding expansion of basic infrastructure for electronic communication media in rural areas of the country, especially in Maharasthra;

(b) the number of proposals lying pending with the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (c): To expand the basic infrastructure for electronic communication media in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra, the following schemes are being implemented:

- To provide telephone on demand by March, 2002;
- To provide village public telephones in all the villages by March, 2002;
- To provide reliable transmission media to all exchanges by March, 2002;

Exchanges are opened on continuous basis depending upon the demand of telephones. 3431 new exchanges and 100,000 VPTs have been planned to be provided in the rural areas of the country during the current financial year. 800 new exchanges are planned to be opened in rural areas of Maharashtra during the current financial year. 10,926 villages are without telephone facility in Maharashtra at present which are to be covered by Private Fixed Service Provider.